

Home and Farm.

Applary for December.

In bee-keeping more than in any thing else, a degree of common sense is required, as well as close observation. "I followed your directions explicitly about feeding," writes a correspondent, "and the colonies fed all went to rearing brood, and it seems to me the hives are no heavier than when I commenced, though the combs are full of brood." Now the directions are given for feeding for Spring, when this state of things was desirable. It is not best to feed in the Fall as to stimulate brood rearing. If the food had been given in the comb—thrown in by the extractor—it would have produced this effect.

We had some colonies that we wanted to feed, and in ordinary years have done it, so we wished until November, then we united some and gave the other hives "syrup in the honey-comb," where they will find it when they need it. By the time this reaches our readers all bees should be ready for winter and all arrangements made for their comfort. We hope most of them have been put in the cellar or bee-houses, or even buried.

We would not advise a novice to bury bees in any quantity, without one to assist who knows how. Bee Brown as he is called, of Tama County, Iowa, has buried his bees, a hundred colonies or more, every winter without any considerable loss. We have often advised people who have no cellars, to bury single colonies, by throwing straw around the hive and then putting dry soil on every side, except that where the entrance is. A dry goose box, or a case made for the purpose, may also be put over any hive, leaving a space of a few inches between the hive and the box, which space is to be filled with straw or sawdust. The entrance should be left open, though contracted, and something set up to shield it from the sun's rays. It pays to protect bees in some way.

Many times we have heard a person remark, "I left my bees where they stood all Summer, did not do a thing with them, and they came out all right." But we have heard these same persons the next Winter complain of bees all dead or very weak. Even when they do "come out all right" it is sure that they would have done far better, and consumed much less honey, had they been protected. If bees are sent of stores, and must be fed through the Winter, sugar candy is a better food than honey or syrup, especially if they are not kept in warm places. We think December finds bees in a better average condition this season than usual.—Mrs. Ellen S. Tupper in the Kansas Farmer.

Crossing Colts and Merino Sheep.

A few days ago, one of our sheep men, who has for two or three seasons been using a Colts and Merino cross, was invited me to look at a nice stock of lambs which he had just turned into a meadow near the house. We discussed the propriety of thus crossing the breeds, he advocating it strongly. I expressed the opinion that one cross for production of lamb for the table, was the extent of the advantage to be derived from crossing. It is a man not given to the small amount and poor quality of the fleece. He is a man not given to the proof that he is in error, and I was greatly surprised on meeting him on the next day to learn that he had been making a thorough investigation of the matter; and had felt constrained to admit that such is the fact in his own case. I think the introduction and use of coarse wool runs among the flocks of Vermont, and is doing much injury to the best interests of our flock-masters, though they have made a very good thing of it temporarily by raising "lamb." With a stock of old high grade or pure bred Merino ewes and no desire to perpetuate the flock, but only to raise lambs for the shambles, the practice is advisable, but not further.—O. B. S. in the Country Gentleman.

Cat Show.

The cat show at the Crystal Palace in London is thus spoken of in the newspapers of that city. Each cat is enclosed in a neat wire-work cage, with plenty of room for the biggest of them. In each cage is a cushion for the animal to repose upon. They are well supplied with both meat and milk.—The number exhibited, including kittens, is nearly 400. They are divided into four great classes, with prizes ranging from two guineas to five shillings, including short haired tortoiseshell cat, and going through all the varieties of brown tabbies, blue or silver tabbies, black and whites, pure white and unusual colors. Among the interesting animals in the show is an otter, or young tiger-cat, which is a tortoiseshell valued by its owners at \$50. No. 95 is valued by its owners, two maiden ladies, at \$500. To crown all, there is a cat weighing twenty-two pounds without its collar.

An intelligent and thrifty farmer says: "But for the co-operation of my boys I should have failed. The oldest is now twenty-one, and the other boys in the neighborhood, younger, have left their parents; mine have stuck to me when I most needed their services. I attribute the result to the fact that I have tried to make their home pleasant. I have furnished them with attractive and useful reading, and when night came, the day's work was ended, instead of running with other boys to the railroad station and adjoining towns, they gathered around the great lamp and became interested in their books and papers."

Stone Coal for Plants.

A writer in the Kansas Horticulturist, states that he purchased a very fine rosebush, full of buds, after anxiously waiting their maturing, was greatly disappointed when this took place to find the flowers small, insignificant in appearance and of a dull, faded color. Induced by the suggestion of a friend, he then tried the experiment of filling in the depth of the pot around the base to the depth of half an inch with finely pulverized stone coal. In the course of a few days he was astonished at seeing his rosebush assume a beautiful red hue as brilliant and lively as he could have desired.

Stem for Roads.

Whether we like the idea of steam on city railroads or not, it is more than probable that that power will be more than a century or so used. The same disastrous results that are now prophesied, if we do adopt steam as a motive power in our great cities, were prophesied years ago when steam communication between towns was talked of. Some of our great changes, indeed, have the matter further, and urge that not only cars but private carriages be run with steam, and insist that these latter can be made as light and beautiful as those of the present code. Before, however, this comes to pass, we must have even road beds. The wood pavement is everywhere replacing the stone. A Boston contemporary, in reply to the argument that engines would frighten the horses, calmly rejoins: "Then get rid of the horses, and have steam only," though it indulges in the hope that the "mobile animal" may in time become used to the odd contrivance. As to the danger of steam cars, it is a fair reply to consider the danger involved in the use of horses. It is doubtless a fact that more people are maimed and killed by horses than by steam, though, to be sure, there are many more of the former than the latter; yet it is folly to condemn the engine and acquit the horse, which is equally guilty. The American Manufacturer has to say on the subject: "One of the results of the prevalent 'horse epidemic' will unquestionably be to give a great impetus to investigations and experiments having for their object the substitution of some perfectly safe and practical motive power for steam cars and road vehicles in place of horse or mule power. Certainly no stronger stimulus to inventive genius could be given. We believe that smoke-consuming steam engines can be built which shall be noiseless in their operations and more easily managed than a pair of horses, that shall be unobjectionable in all respects. The great car transportation companies of the country would do well in offering a handsome prize for such an invention. This would excite the inventive skill of all our mechanics, induce them to experiment liberally and doubtless, in the end, produce exactly what is wanted."

The Future of Science.

The following extract from Sir Charles Lyell's recently published volume on the "Principles of Geology," is of general interest: "We are sometimes tempted to ask whether the time will ever arrive when science shall have obtained such an ascendancy in the education of the millions that it will be possible to welcome the new theories of science, looking upon them with fear and distrust, and to hail every important victory gained over error, instead of resisting the new discovery long after the evidence in its favor is conclusive. The motion of our planet around the sun, the shape of the earth, the existence of the antipodes, the vast antiquity of the globe, the distinct analogies of species of animals and plants by which it is successively indicated, are to be found in the history of primitive man—all these generalizations, when first announced, have been a source of anxiety and unhappiness."

Chinese Suspension Bridges.

The most remarkable evidence of the mechanical science and skill of the Chinese as far back as 1600 years ago, is to be found in their suspended bridges, the invention of which is ascribed to the Han dynasty. According to the concurrent testimony of all their historical and geographical writers, Sangsang, the commander of the army under Bao-tso, the first of the Han, undertook and completed the formation of roads through the mountainous province of Shensi, to the west of the capital. His army's lotly hills and deep valleys had rendered the communication difficult and circuitous. With a body of 1,000,000 laborers he cut passages over the mountains, throwing the removed soil into valleys, and where this was not sufficient to the required height, he constructed bridges by fastening the pillars or abutments. In another place he conceived and accomplished the daring project of suspending a bridge from one mountain to another across a deep chasm. These bridges, which were very appropriately called by the Chinese writers, flying bridges, are numerous at the present day, and are so high that they can be traversed without alarm. One Shensi stretches 400 feet from mountain to mountain, over a chasm of 500 feet. Most of these flying bridges are so wide that four horsemen can ride on them abreast, and balustrades are placed on each side, to protect travelers. It is by no means improbable, as M. Panthier suggests, that, as the missionaries to China made known the fact a century ago, that the Chinese had suspended bridges, the ideas may have been taken from thence for similar construction by European engineers.—Western World.

Cold Water Bad for Cows.

During the past summer, in the hot days of July and August, the animals resorted to the lake to drink, and, after slaking their thirst, they would wade into the water and remain some times an hour or two with their legs half immersed. This habit it was found invariably diminished the flow of milk at night, and in order to learn the cause, the animals were made. It was ascertained that standing in the water an hour diminished the flow to the amount of ten quarts in the flow of thirteen quarts. The loss was so great that whenever they resorted to the water they were driven away to the pasture at once, turning the herd into from simply a cold day in winter and allowing them to remain fifteen minutes, the flow of milk was increased to the normal amount. The loss was so great that whenever they resorted to the water they were driven away to the pasture at once, turning the herd into from simply a cold day in winter and allowing them to remain fifteen minutes, the flow of milk was increased to the normal amount.

Disinfectant.

In the central chemical department of public health, at Dresden, numerous researches have lately been made to ascertain the comparative value of various disinfecting materials, the chief results of which are given below. The value of chlorine of lime and sulphuric acid, which will be seen from the most effective disinfecting substance, is here expressed by 100, while the remaining numbers show the value of the other articles as compared with this standard: Chloride of lime with sulphuric acid, 100; chloride of lime with sulphate of iron, 90; Synder and Svidloff's powder, 85; carbolic acid disinfecting powder, 85; slaked lime, 84.5; alum, 80.4; sulphate of iron, 78.7; chloral, 74.0; sulphate of magnesia, 57.1; permanganate of potash with sulphuric acid, 51.3.

Flowers in a Sitting-room.

A correspondent of the Maine Farmer writes: "I saw a single petunia in a lady's sitting-room that was perfect. The plant was in a hanging basket, and the flowers were in full bloom. The lady who owned it was very particular about her flowers, and she had taken great pains to keep them in perfect health. The flowers were of a deep purple color, and they were very fragrant. The lady was very pleased with them, and she had placed them in a very conspicuous place in her sitting-room. The flowers were in perfect health, and they were very beautiful. The lady was very particular about her flowers, and she had taken great pains to keep them in perfect health. The flowers were of a deep purple color, and they were very fragrant. The lady was very pleased with them, and she had placed them in a very conspicuous place in her sitting-room. The flowers were in perfect health, and they were very beautiful. 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